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NEW YORK WOMAN GUILTY OF PASSPORT FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that JILLIAN ALEXANDRA PAUL, 43, of Brooklyn, NY, pleaded guilty to intentionally making false statements in an application for a passport. PAUL was originally indicted in May, 2003, after agents of the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service uncovered the fraud at the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Paul agreed to plead guilty to a new charge that was brought by the United States Attorney's Office after Paul agreed to waive her right to be indicted by a grand jury on the new charge.

In January 2001, PAUL submitted a passport application in which she claimed that she was a United States citizen born in Lawrence, Massachusetts. In fact, PAUL is a citizen of Trinidad. Paul pleaded guilty to willfully and knowingly making false statements to the State Department in a passport application in order to fraudulently obtain a United States passport.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "The United States Passport is the gold standard of travel documents. Accordingly, fraud in the acquisition or use of a United States Passport is a matter of grave concern as it has implications for our nation's security. This office will do everything possible to make sure that those who misrepresent their citizenship in or otherwise falsify passport applications is prosecuted. In prosecuting these cases, we hope to send a message of general deterrence to those who would engage in passport fraud."

This case resulted from an ongoing initiative known as "Operation Checkmate" which is designed to identify false passport applications that are submitted for adjudication to the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The National Passport Center processes and adjudicates approximately two million applications each year, or one-quarter of all United States passport applications. Operation Checkmate is a joint initiative of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire, the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

PAUL's sentencing hearing was set by U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe for January 20, 2005, at 2:00 P.M. Assistant U. S. Attorney Alfred Rubega is prosecuting this case.